

NOTICE

New Interim U.S. Postal Service Mailing Standards Effective November 1, 2006

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is revising its mailing standards and packaging requirements for Division 6.2 infectious substances. The new USPS classification criteria and packaging standards are now consistent with the Department of Transportation regulations that were implemented October 1, 2006 and with current international air transport standards.

The interim rule replaces the previous 4 tiered risk group classification for infectious substances to a two-tiered system - "Category A" and "Category B". Substances that are not considered infectious are either "Exempt Human Specimens" or non-regulated material. Brief descriptions, as defined by the USPS regulations, follow.

Category A Infectious Substance: An infectious substance transported in a form capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals if exposure to it occurs. Refer to "Indicative Examples of Infectious Substances Included in Category A in any Form unless Otherwise Indicated". This list is not exhaustive. If there is any doubt, it must be classified as Category A.

Examples: an agar slant of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, patient specimens for smallpox testing, an agar slant of *Brucella abortus*.

NEW: *These substances are now prohibited in the mail. The MDCH pre-paid USPS labels can no longer be used for Category A Infectious Substances and MDCH is not currently able to cover the expense of shipping these substances.*

Biological substance, Category B: An infectious substance that does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Category A.

Examples: an agar slant of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, a patient specimen sent for culture for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a specimen being sent for viral load testing. ***The MDCH pre-paid USPS labels may still be used for Category B substances.***

Exempt Human (Animal) Specimen: A human or animal specimen that is being transported for routine testing not related to the diagnosis of an infectious disease.

Examples: urine sent for drug screening, serum sent for cholesterol testing, tissue sent for cancer biopsy.

Non regulated Materials: non-infectious materials not subject to the regulations.

Examples: transfusion materials, transplantation materials, dried blood spots, fecal occult blood cards.

A summary of the interim changes follows to assist you when shipping via the USPS.

USPS Postal Service Shipping Summary as of November 1, 2006

NOTE: This may be revised after December 1, 2006

Category A Infectious Substances UN 2814 & UN 2900

- **NOT MAILABLE**
- Category A substances may be shipped by commercial shipping firms.
- The MDCH pre-paid USPS labels can no longer be used for Category A Infectious Substances and MDCH is not currently able to cover the expense of shipping these substances.

Biological Substance Category B UN 3373

Liquids- Solid/dry

- Shipping Unit: "6.2 like" shipping unit - primary, secondary, outer (leakproof, siftproof)
- Marks and labels: Biological substance, Category B UN 3373, Emergency contact information
- International biohazard symbol: secondary only
- Volume limit: 1L or 4kg /primary 4L or 4kg/secondary
- Dangerous Goods Form: No
- Mail: First Class, Priority, Express Mail The MDCH pre-paid USPS labels may still be used for Category B substances.

Exempt Human or Animal Specimens

Liquids- Solid/dry

- Shipping Unit: Three part shipping unit - primary, secondary, outer (leakproof, siftproof, rigid outer)
- Marks and labels: Exempt human (animal) specimen on address side of package
- International biohazard symbol: secondary only
- Volume limit: 500ml or 500g /primary 500ml or 500g/outer
- Dangerous Goods Form: No
- Mail: First Class, Priority, Express Mail or Package Service

Non Regulated Substances

Liquids <50ml

- Shipping Unit: primary receptacle, secondary, and maybe an outer container. (securely sealed, rigid outer)
- Marks and labels: none required
- International biohazard symbol: on secondary unless it is used as outer, then on inner packaging or primary, **not** on outer
- Volume limit: 50ml/primary 50ml/outer
- Dangerous Goods Form: No
- Mail: First Class, Priority, Express Mail, or Package Services

Liquids >50ml

- Shipping Unit: primary, secondary, outer (securely sealed)
- Marks and labels: none required
- International biohazard symbol: secondary only
- Volume limit: 500ml/primary 500ml/outer
- Dangerous Goods Form: No
- Mail: First Class, Priority, Express Mail, or Package Services

Solid/Dry

- Shipping Unit: primary, secondary and maybe an outer container
- Marking & labels: none
- International biohazard symbol: on secondary unless secondary is used as outer
- Volume limit: none
- Dangerous Goods Form: No
- Mail: First Class, Priority, Express Mail, or Package Services

**INDICATIVE EXAMPLES OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES INCLUDED IN CATEGORY A
IN ANY FORM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED**

UN Number and Proper Shipping Name	Micro-organism
UN 2814 Infectious substance Affecting humans	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (cultures only) <i>Brucella abortus</i> (cultures only) <i>Brucella melitensis</i> (cultures only) <i>Brucella suis</i> (cultures only) <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> – <i>Pseudomonas mallei</i> – Glanders (cultures only) <i>Chlamydia psittaci</i> – avian strains (cultures only) <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> (cultures only) <i>Coccidioides immitis</i> (cultures only) <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (cultures only) Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus Dengue virus (cultures only) Eastern equine encephalitis virus (cultures only) <i>Escherichia coli</i> , verotoxigenic (cultures only) Ebola virus Flexal virus <i>Francisella tularensis</i> (cultures only) Guanarito virus Hantaan virus Hantaviruses causing hantavirus pulmonary syndrome Hendra virus Hepatitis B virus (cultures only) Herpes B virus (cultures only) Human immunodeficiency virus (cultures only) Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (cultures only) Japanese Encephalitis virus (cultures only) Junin virus Kyasanur forest disease virus Lassa virus Machupo virus Marburg virus Monkeypox virus <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (cultures only) Nipah virus Omsk hemorrhagic fever virus Poliovirus (cultures only) Rabies virus <i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i> (cultures only) <i>Rickettsia rickettsii</i> (cultures only) Rift Valley fever virus Russian spring-summer encephalitis virus (cultures only) Sabia virus

UN Number and Proper Shipping Name	Micro-organism
UN 2814 Infectious substance Affecting humans cont'	<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i> type 1 (cultures only) Tick-borne encephalitis virus (cultures only) Variola virus Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus West Nile virus (cultures only) Yellow fever virus (cultures only) <i>Yersinia pestis</i> (cultures only)
UN 2900 Infectious substance Affecting animals	African horse sickness virus African swine fever virus Avian paramyxovirus Type 1 – Newcastle disease virus Bluetongue virus Classical swine fever virus Foot and mouth disease virus Lumpy skin disease virus <i>Mycoplasma mycoides</i> – Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia Peste des petits ruminants virus Rinderpest virus Sheep-pox virus Goatpox virus Swine vesicular disease virus Vesicular stomatitis virus
Note: This table is not exhaustive. Infectious substances, including new or emerging pathogens, which do not appear in the table but which meet the same criteria must be assigned to Category A. <u>If in doubt as to whether or not a substance meets the criteria it must be included in Category A.</u>	